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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /104 W
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R 251048Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0711
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
13THAF CLARK AB RP
CINCPACREPGU GUAM MI
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, MARR, VN, UR, RP, US
SUBJECT: MARCOS' CONCERN WITH SOVIETS AND VIETNAMESE;
- CSIS BASE STUDY

1. SUMMARY: DR. RICHARD WALKER OF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA CALLED ON AMBASSADOR AUGUST 22 TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY STUDY OF US BASES IN PHILIPPINES AND TO RELATE CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS. DURING TALK WITH WALKER, MARCOS EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH SOVIET INFLUENCE OVER VIETNAM AND POSSIBILITY THAT VIETNAMESE MIGHT POSE FUTURE THREAT TO PHILIPPINES. MARCOS SHIED AWAY FROM DISCUSSION OF BASES BUT INVITED WALKER TO MAKE APPOINTMENT AUGUST 23 TO DISCUSS TOPIC. (WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHETHER WALKER SAW MARCOS SECOND TIME.) WALKER INDICATED HE WOULD ACT AS
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REFEREE FOR GEORGETOWN STUDY AND THAT PRINCIPAL RESEARCH-ERS WERE SEVI CARLSON AND AL COTTRELL. HE NOTED ADMIRAL MOORER MAY HAVE BACKTRACKED ON HIS SUPPORT FOR MELCHOR'S CONCEPT OF COMMERCIALIZATION OF BASES. IN DISCUSSION OF STUDY, WALKER SEEMED PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED WITH PAVING WAY FOR CARLSON AND COTTRELL WHO WILL SHORTLY BEGIN FIELDWORK FOR STUDY. END SUMMARY.

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2. DR. RICHARD WALKER, INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR AUGUST 22 TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY STUDY OF THE MILITARY BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES. WALKER, WHO IS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES AT GEORGETOWN, SPOKE WITH THE AMBASSADOR FOLLOWING AN EXTENDED LUNCHEON WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS. ALEX MELCHOR ORGANIZED THE MEETING WITH MARCOS AND ALSO PARTICIPATED.

3. WALKER RELATED THAT, DURING HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT, MARCOS APPEARED TO BE CONCERNED PRINCIPALLY ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION AND ASKED WHY THE SOVIETS WERE PARADING THE FACT THAT THEY HAD HANOI VERY MUCH UNDER THEIR CONTROL. HE SAID THE SOVIETS HAD TOLD MRS. MARCOS DURING HER RECENT TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION THEY WANTED THE VIETNAMESE AND PHILIPPINES TO HAVE BETTER RELATIONS AND THEY WOULD SEND THE VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER TO MANILA TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO WALKER, MARCOS WAS PREOCCUPIED WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE VIETNAMESE, WITH SOVIET BACKING, MIGHT POSE A THREAT TO THE PHILIPPINES. WALKER SUGGESTED TO PRESIDENT THIS SEEMED UNLIKELY FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE BECAUSE OF THE POOR CONDITION OF THE VIETNAMESE ECONOMY AND BECAUSE THE VIETNAMESE APPEARED TO DESIRE TO IMPROVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELATIONS WITH THEIR ASIAN NEIGHBORS.

4. WALKER'S PURPOSE IN MEETING MARCOS WAS TO DISCUSS US BASES BUT WHEN HE RAISED THE SUBJECT MARCOS SHIED AWAY FROM IT. THE PRESIDENT SAID LATER, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD GIVE WALKER A SECOND APPOINTMENT FOR AUGUST 23 AND THEY COULD THEN DISCUSS THIS TOPIC. (WE DO NOT YET HAVE A READING ON WHETHER THIS SECOND MEETING TOOK PLACE.)

5. CSIS STUDY: WALKER MENTIONED THAT HE WILL SERVE AS A "REFEREE" FOR THE CSIS STUDY ON US BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES, READING AND COMMENTING ON IT PRIOR TO PUBLICATION, AND THAT THE PRINCIPAL RESEARCHERS ARE SEVI CARLSON, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS OF TURKISH ORIGIN, A "VERY CAPABLE GIRL," AND "A SOLID QUESTIONER AND RESEARCH ER," AND AL COTTRELL, WHO WILL HANDLE THE MILITARY PORTION OF THE STUDY. COTTRELL RECEIVED HIS PH.D. FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA AND HAS DONE A NUMBER OF STUDIES ON THE PERSIAN GULF.

6. WALKER OPINED THAT ALEX MELCHOR HAS "APPARENTLY SOLD" THE CONCEPT OF COMMERCIALIZATION OF THE BASES TO

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PRESIDENT MARCOS. THE AMBASSADOR STATED HE WAS NOT CERTAIN THIS WAS THE CASE BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT HAS, TO A VRY GREAT EXTENT, KEPT HIS OWN COUNSEL ON THE BASES. WALKER EXPLAINED THAT MELCHOR'S MOTIVATION FOR PRESSING THE CONCEPT OF COMMERCIALIZATION OF THE BASES WAS TO MAINTAIN A STRONG PHILIPPINE-US RELATIONSHIP IN A FORM THAT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO FILIPINOS, GIVEN THE RISING NATIONALISM IN THE PHILIPPINES. WALKER NOTED THAT ADMIRAL MOORER APPEARS TO HAVE BACKTRACKED ON HIS ORIGINAL SUPPORT FOR MELCHOR'S COMMERCIALIZATION PLAN, THOUGH MOORER WILL STILL SERVE AS A SENIOR ADVISER TO THE STUDY.

7. COMMENT: WALKER APPEARS TO BE POINT-MAN FOR THE
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CSIS'S STUDY. IN ADDITION TO SEEING MARCOS, HE ALSO HAD DINNER WITH MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE ENRILE AND

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VISITED SUBIC AUGUST 23 TO SEE ADMIRAL HARDISTY. ALL THESE MEETINGS WERE ARRANGED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF MELCHOR. DURING HIS TIME AT THE EMBASSY HE APPEARED TO BE PRINCIPALLY INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING THE BONA FIDES OF CARLSON AND COTTRELL, WHO WILL SHORTLY BE COMING TO THE PHILIPPINES TO INITIATE THE STUDY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, STUDIES, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANILA14983
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780348-0524
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780824/aaaaatmi.tel
Line Count: 178
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1621961
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARCOS\' CONCERN WITH SOVIETS AND VIETNAMESE; - CSIS BASE STUDY
TAGS: PEPR, MARR, VM, UR, RP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/825c755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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